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MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL IN 1991

Provisional agenda and organization of work of the thirty-eighth session

Note by the secretariat

1. In accordance with its decision 90/53 of 23 June 1990, the Governing Council will hold its thirty-eighth session at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 3 to 21 June 1991.

2. At its thirty-seventh session, the Governing Council again reviewed its working methods, and requested the Administrator to examine further the possibility of reducing the number and the length of documents presented to the Council, and to biennialize or even triennialize specific items and the high-level segment and to submit his proposals to the Council. These proposals are being presented to the Council in document DP/1991/3. The draft provisional agenda as well as the organization of work of the thirty-eighth session of the Council have been prepared on the basis of these proposals of the Administrator. It will be noted that the attached timetable envisages a three-week session.

3. It may be recalled that by its decision 87/50, annex, of 19 June 1987, the Governing Council resolved to take a number of measures with respect to its structure and organization of work so as to increase the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Council's work. They included: the consolidation of certain agenda items of a similar nature; the scheduling of similar items at the same meeting (e.g., United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and women in development, all items relating to Africa); limiting the scheduling of more than two meetings of sessional bodies at the same time; attempting to keep the time allocated for Budgetary and Finance Committee meetings to 30 meetings for budget years and 20 meetings for non-budget years.

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4. It should also be recalled that, in accordance with Governing Council decision 87/1, annex, of 17 February 1987, reports of special funds administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), other than UNIFEM, should be submitted on a biennial basis. Thus, only those funds besides UNIFEM which were not considered in 1990 have been listed on the provisional agenda for 1991.

5. Annex I to this note contains the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Governing Council, based on Council decision 90/54 of 23 June 1990.

6. In annex II to this note, the secretariat is submitting a proposal for the organization of work of the Plenary, the Standing Committee for Programme Matters, the Budgetary and Finance Committee (BFC) and the Drafting Group for consideration by the Governing Council at its organizational meeting. As has been the case in the past few years, it is proposed that the Council begin its session with the items on the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Standing Committee for Programme Matters would be convened to deal with programme matters, beginning with UNFPA programming matters, followed by UNDP programming matters. The consideration of the various items by Plenary, BFC and the Drafting Group is proposed in such a manner that an overlap of meetings by the various sessional bodies dealing with the same question is avoided as much as possible.

7. The BFC would hold 10 meetings during the first week of the session, 10 meetings during the second week and would then alternate a few of its remaining meetings with those of the Drafting Group or any other informal working group mechanism set up during the session, thereby avoiding, to the greatest possible extent, simultaneous meetings. Thus, a total number of not more than 30 meetings (including the adoption of the draft report) would be scheduled for the BFC during the session. Towards the end of the session, when the Plenary is in recess, simultaneous meetings of the BFC and the Drafting Group are envisaged to complete their respective work programmes.

8. All meetings will be scheduled normally from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In that context, it may be recalled that by paragraph 3 (j) of its decision 81/37 of 27 June 1981, the Governing Council decided that its meetings should start promptly at their scheduled times.

9. Pursuant to its decision 90/23 of 23 June 1990, the Governing Council may wish to allocate to the Standing Committee the following subjects for consideration:

(a) Implementation of country programmes in various regions;

(b) All country and intercountry programmes;

(c) Global and interregional projects;

(d) UNFPA country and intercountry programmes.

10. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of decision 90/23 of 23 June 1990, a written report, including recommendations by the Standing Committee for Programme Matters will be

submitted to Plenary by the presiding officer of the Committee. This report will contain draft decisions for adoption by the Governing Council.

11. Taking into account past practice, the Governing Council may wish to decide that First Vice-Presidents of the Council serve as Chairmen of the BFC.

12. As regards the programme of work of the Committee, the Governing Council may wish to allocate to it items 5 (a) through 9 (c) of the Council's draft provisional agenda. The Council may further wish to allocate to the Committee financial and administrative questions related to item 6, United Nations Population Fund, and to item 8, Other funds and programmes. As in past years, the Committee will also have to review the financial implications of draft decisions before action is taken by the Council, especially in light of decision 86/53 of 27 June 1986. Each year, the Council, at the beginning of its regular session, has referred to the BFC a number of documents on its agenda having financial implications, for prior consideration of these aspects. In 1988, it was proposed that these documents be identified at the organizational meeting so that they may be included at an early stage in the overall work plan for the Committee. In accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of decision 81/37, the Committee will have its own agenda and organization of work.

13. In accordance with Governing Council decisions 81/37, paragraph 3 (k), 85/47 and 87/50, annex, arrangements will also be made for the servicing of a Drafting Group of the Council during the thirty-eighth session, including the provision of interpretation services. The Drafting Group is scheduled to meet during the period 6-20 June 1991. The Drafting Group will elaborate and finalize draft decisions on those items referred to it by the Plenary for the ultimate adoption of such draft decisions by the Council. All draft decisions formulated by the Drafting Group having financial implications would have to be referred to the BFC before action is taken by the Council. The Council may wish to designate one of its Vice-Presidents to chair the Drafting Group.

14. It may be recalled that by section III of its decision 83/1, the Governing Council enunciated a number of principles which would guide the deliberations of the Drafting Group:

(a) Consideration of draft decisions on the various items will begin only after the debate thereon in Plenary has been closed;

(b) The Chairman of the Drafting Group will circulate working papers containing preliminary drafts on the various issues prepared, at his request, by the secretariat, in order to facilitate the drafting of decisions;

(c) All delegations may submit draft decisions on any agenda item not specifically allocated for consideration by the BFC, including subjects already covered in the working papers of the Chairman of the Drafting Group;

(d) In cases where both delegations and the Chairman have circulated draft texts, the Drafting Group will give precedence to the consideration of texts submitted by delegations;

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(e) Unless otherwise decided by the Council, draft decisions submitted or sponsored by delegations on items referred to the Drafting Group will be taken up directly by the Drafting Group; the final text of such draft decisions as approved by the Drafting Group will, however, be submitted by the Chairman of the Drafting Group, on its behalf, to the Plenary without identifying particular sponsors.

15. As in previous years, the attached schedule should be considered as provisional and indicative in character so that the Governing Council may be in a position to take up various items on a flexible basis. In particular, once it completes consideration of an item before an indicated date, the Council could move immediately to the next item on its work schedule. In any case, the Council usually entrusts its Bureau with the task of adjusting the schedule of meetings, within the overall allocation of services, as may be required according to the exigencies of the session.

Annex I

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Thirty-eighth session

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.

2. Annual report of the Administrator for 1990 and programme-level activities. a/

3. Special programmes of assistance:

   (a) Africa-related matters; b/

   (b) Least developed countries;

   (c) Refugees, displaced persons and returnees.

4. Programme implementation:

   (a) Implementation of selected country programmes;

   (b) Evaluation;

   (c) National execution.

5. Programme planning:

   (a) Country and intercountry programmes and projects;

   (b) Preparations for the fifth programming cycle, including funding strategy;

   (c) Agency support costs. c/

6. United Nations Population Fund:

   (a) Annual report of the Executive Director for 1990 and programme-level activities; d/

   (b) Country and intercountry programmes; e/

   (c) Financial, budgetary and administrative matters. f/

7. United Nations technical co-operation activities.

8. Other funds and programmes. g/

9. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters:

   (a) Annual review of the financial situation, 1990; h/

(b) Revised budget estimates for 1990-1991 and budget estimates for 1992-1993; i/

(c) Audit reports and other matters. j/

10. Other matters. k/

11. Matters relating to the work of the Council in 1992.

Notes

a/ Under this item the Governing Council will have before it reports on the following subjects:

Human development;

Management Development Programme;

Technical co-operation among developing countries;

Non-governmental and grass-roots organizations;

Women in development;

Role of UNDP in combating HIV and AIDS.

b/ Under this sub-item the Governing Council will have before it reports on the following subjects:

Role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;

Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

c/ Under this sub-item the Governing Council will also have before it a report on sectoral support.

d/ Under this sub-item the Governing Council will also have before it reports on the following subjects:

Work plan for 1992-1995 and request for approval authority;

Status of financial implementation of Governing Council-approved UNFPA country programmes and projects;

Contraceptive requirements of developing countries during the 1990s;

Status report on UNFPA strategy concerning women, population and development;

Status report on UNFPA strategy for assistance to sub-Saharan Africa;

Report on proposed support cost arrangements for UNFPA.

e/ Under this sub-item the Governing Council will also have before it the proposed UNFPA intercountry programme for 1992-1995.

Notes (continued)

f/ Under this sub-item the Governing Council will have before it reports on the following subjects:

Biennial budget estimates for 1992-1993;

Annual financial review;

Report on the funding of UNFPA publications.

g/ Under this item the Governing Council will have before it reports on the following funds and programmes:

United Nations Capital Development Fund;

United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development;

United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration;

United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;

United Nations Development Fund for Women.

h/ Under this sub-item the Governing Council will also have before it reports on trust funds.

i/ Under this sub-item the Governing Council will also have before it reports on the senior management structure.

j/ Under this sub-item the Governing Council will also have before it a report on procurement from developing countries.

k/ Under this item reports on the following subjects will be made available to the Governing Council:

United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical co-operation expenditures;

Steps taken by UNDP in response to action taken by the General Assembly and by other organs of the United Nations system;

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit of interest to UNDP.

Annex II

Week 1

	MONDAY 3 June 1991		TUESDAY 4 June 1991		WEDNESDAY 5 June 1991		THURSDAY 6 June 1991		FRIDAY 7 June 1991	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
COUNCIL (Plenary)	1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda (1) 2. UNFPA (6) Annual report of the Executive Director	UNFPA (6)	United Nations technical co-operation activities (7)	Other funds and programmes (8)	Other funds and programmes (8)	Other funds and programmes (8)				(Following adjournment of SCPM) Annual report of the Administrator (2) (Introduction) a/
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS (SCPM)			UNFPA (6)	UNFPA (6)	UNFPA (6)	UNFPA (6)	UNDP Implementation of selected country programmes (4 (a))	UNDP (continued) (4 (a))	UNDP (continued) Evaluation National execution (4 (a), (b), (c))	UNDP Country and intercountry programmes Fifth programming cycle, funding strategy (5 (a), (b))
BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (BFC) b/										
DRAFTING GROUP							Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions

a/ To be confirmed.

b/ A separate, detailed timetable will be submitted for BFC in due course.

/...

Week 2

	MONDAY 10 June 1991		TUESDAY 11 June 1991		WEDNESDAY 12 June 1991		THURSDAY 13 June 1991		FRIDAY 14 June 1991	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
COUNCIL (Plenary)	Annual report of the Administrator and other programme-level activities (2)	Annual report (2) (continued)	Annual report (2) (continued)	Annual report (2) (continued)	Special programmes of assistance (3) (a) Africa-related matters (b) LDCs (c) Refugees UNSO (8)	Special programmes (3) and UNSO (8) (continued)	Special programmes (3) and UNSO (8) (continued)	Agency support costs (5 (c))	National execution (4 (c))	Preparations for fifth programming cycle, funding strategy (5 (b))
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS (SCPM)										
BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (BFC) a/										
DRAFTING GROUP			Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions

a/ A separate, detailed timetable will be submitted for BFC in due course.

Week 3

	MONDAY 17 June 1991		TUESDAY 18 June 1991		WEDNESDAY 19 June 1991		THURSDAY 20 June 1991		FRIDAY 21 June 1991	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
COUNCIL (Plenary)	Conclusion of items from second week (if necessary)	Conclusion of items from second week (if necessary)	Other matters (10)							1. Matters relating to the work of the Council in 1992 (11) 2. Adoption of decisions 3. Closure of the session
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS (SCPM)					Meeting	Meeting				
BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (BFC) a/										
DRAFTING GROUP	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions	Decisions		

a/ A separate, detailed timetable will be submitted for BFC in due course.